

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figure 2 with the replacement sheet labeled Figure 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objected to the drawings alleging that they fail to show a means for controlling the column counter 230 using the row counter 210, a means for controlling the row counter 210 using the column counter 230, or means for adding an offset value in the offset memory 270 to the column count from counter 230 and to the synchronous counting value, as described in the specification at paragraph [0043].

Additionally, the Examiner objected to Figure 2 indicating that “any operation supposed to be represented by the crossing of a conductor carrying the output of the unlabeled XOR gate at the top of Figure 2 is not depicted in a recognizable or standard manner.

With regard to the drawings as not showing a means for controlling the row counter 210 using the column counter 230, Applicants note that the specification does not describe this type of control. Further, one skilled in the art would realize that a controller could be linked to counters 210 and 230 to control their respective operations, or the counters 210 and 230 could be communicatively linked by a signal line. However, Applicants submit herewith an amended Figure 2, which now includes a line connecting the row counter 210 to the column counter 230.

Second, Applicants submit that the plus sign within a circle, which the Examiner contends is an “XOR gate” is the means for adding an offset value in the offset memory to the column count from the column counter and to the synchronous counting value. Applicants submit that this is shown in Figure 2 by the plus sign within a circle and would be so recognized by one skilled in the art. Therefore, Applicants submit that this simple additive element is

properly shown in the figure, especially in light of the corresponding description in the specification. (See par. [42]) Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand what is represented by the symbol (plus sign in the circle)

Specification Objection

The Examiner alleges that the description of Figure 3 implies the two selection means in the bottom row serve no purpose as there is no selection, i.e. the input and the output are apparently fixed at 1:1. Applicants submit the rejection is improper. The purpose of the bottom row is to show the final extent of the series of rows if taken to the k^{th} row. This is a typical mathematical manner for representing a series of k rows.

Additionally, the Examiner objects to the use of the term synchronous counters in items 251 and 252. Applicants submit that this rejection is improper because the labeling of these counters is adequate. These counters are merely synchronous counters used by each row. In one exemplary embodiment, these plural counters, i.e. first synchronous counter 251, second synchronous counter 252 have a different synchronous period to correspond to the row counting value. (See par. [14]). These counters are adequately defined by their location in FIG. 2, and their corresponding description in the specification. Additionally, the column period set in the column counter may be set to correspond to the synchronous signal of the digital communications system. (See Specification, par. [13-14]). Because this function may be performed by a mere synchronous counter, the labeling as a “first synchronous counter” is proper.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner alleges that these claims are indefinite for the following reasons:

(1) claims 1-6 and 8-13 - “synchronous” appears to be confusing, for the reasons noted above in the objection of the disclosure.;

(2) claims 3 and 10 - “a column period . . . corresponds to a synchronous signal” is unclear;

(3) claims 5 and 12 - “generated in combination with the row counting value, column counting value, and synchronous counting value” is poor syntax and unclear;

(4) claims 6 and 13 - “based on the column counting value to which the offset value is added and the synchronous counting value” is poor syntax and thus unclear.

Regarding item (1), Applicants submit that the present amendments to claims 1-6 and 8-13 which amend the term “plural synchronous counters” to “plural row synchronous counters.”

Regarding item (2), Applicants submit that those of ordinary skill in the art of communication networks commonly rely on accurate synchronization to operate properly. Thus, each digital communications system has a corresponding synchronization signal, typically based on a primary reference clock.

Regarding items (3) and (4), Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 in view of the self-explanatory amendments to these claims.

Thus, we propose to submit that claims 1-14 are allowable in view of the current claim amendments.

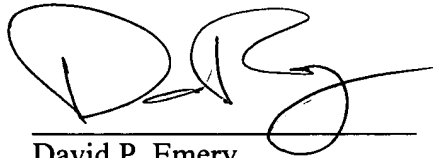
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Emery', written over a horizontal line.

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